Application of rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 1954 to PoK Refugees

1607. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not applying Central Act of 1954 for rehabilitation and resettlement for refugees to PoK refugees; and

(b) the reasons of not reacting when Jammu and Kashmir Government created an authority titled Custodian of Evacuee Properties to safeguard properties of Muslims who had since migrated to Pakistan and settled there permanently as citizens of Pakistan, and for creating a department to register properties of PoK refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 is a Central Act applicable only to displaced persons from West Pakistan who migrated to India due to the creation of Dominions of India and Pakistan in 1947.

(b) No claims for compensation in lieu of the properties left behind by displaced persons from Pak occupied Kashmir were invited as PoK has always been treated as an integral part of India.

PoK refugees

1608. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PoK refugees have still been living as second class citizens of the Republic of India after 56 years of Independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have set up any Commission/Committee for registration of claims of PoK refugees for the properties left behind by them in PoK so as to pay them compensation and settle them permanently; and

(d) if so, the results thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No claims for compensation in lieu of the properties left behind by Displaced Persons from PoK have been invited as PoK has always been treated as an integral part of India. However, relief and rehabilitation assistance has been provided to the PoK displaced persons as per relief and rehabilitation packages announced by Government of India from time to time. The latest package was announced on 9th August, 2000 which is under implementation.

US grant for disaster management in Orissa

1609. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has given a grant of four million dollars for disaster management for the 20-multihazard-prone districts of Orissa, Gujarat, West Bengal, Uttaranchal and Assam; and

(b) if so, whether these State Governments have been advised to prepare action plans on priority and whether some model guidelines been issued so that valuable time is not wasted at the planning stage and monitoring mechanism is established for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to provide a grant of US $ 4,012,535 to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the Disaster Risk Management Programme taken up by the Government of India in conjunction with UNDP in 169 most multi-hazard prone districts in 17 States in the country. The USAID grant will support the programme activities for sustainable disaster risk reduction in the States and build capacities at all levels to Institutionalize the disaster risk management including preparation of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response plans in 20 of the most multihazard prone districts in Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Assam.